

# MAY

at the

## CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

### MAY MEETINGS

(for Members and Their Guests)

DATES & TIMES: Matinee, 2:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 17.

Evenings, 8:00 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday, May 17 and 18.

PLACE: May Treat Morrison Auditorium

SUBJECT: "BAJA CALIFORNIA"

This Academy-produced documentary on our fascinating neighbor to the south was made possible by a grant from the Belvedere Scientific Fund and is another vivid example of the Academy's long-term interest in an area truthfully described as a "last frontier."

With its sere, forbidding air of melancholy — heat-drenched and dust-covered — and for the most part primitive and unspoiled, Baja California is much the same as it was when white men discovered it more than 400 years ago.

The seemingly empty peninsula, which runs from the U.S. border through the Tropic of Cancer to the Cape of San Lucas at the tip, is filled with unusual kinds of life and in its waters are not only a wide variety of fishes, but California sea lions, elephant seals and California gray whales, to mention but a few, and its islands are home for seabirds by the thousands. (The film footage on birds in this film is a revelation!) The plants are fascinatingly grotesque what with Boojums, cacti of all kinds, elephant trees and palo de arco. All the contrasts are sharp and well-defined.

"Baja California" is the product of Professional Arts, Inc. of San Mateo. David Parker is the writer-narrator and the film was photographed and edited by Pete Drowne.

Three meetings as indicated and your membership card is your admission. For the matinee performance, present it to the door attendant at the entrance of Cowell Hall only. You will be asked to show it once

again at the auditorium entrance. For the evening meetings, ingress is at both the main entrance, Cowell Hall and the rear Planetarium entrance off Middle Drive.

### MORRISON PLANETARIUM

"MAN AND THE MOON" continues through June 18. Our moon has meant many things to many people — lovers, thieves, scientists, farmers — everybody — and that includes you and me. Here's a new and different look at the "orb of night."

Performances daily at two with evening shows, Wednesdays through Sunday, at eight. Extra matinees on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays at 3:30. Admission: Anyone 18 and over, \$1.00. Anyone 17 and under, 50c.

### SPECIAL EXHIBITS

"GALAPAGOS" continues indefinitely in Cowell Hall. Also in that area, "MINERALS" consisting of spectacular gifts added recently to the Academy collections and certainly worthy of note.

Through the kindness of the U.S. Coast & Geodetic Survey, a giant relief map of the Bay Area has been added to the "Save the Bay for Life" exhibit in Lovell White Hall.

### SPECIAL MUSICAL EVENT

"A CONCERT OF INDIAN MUSIC" is scheduled in Morrison Planetarium on Saturday and Sunday evenings, May 27-28, at 8:00 featuring Montino Bourbon on the sarod and Philip Ford, tabla. They in turn will be accompanied by celestial splendor on the great dome of the Theatre of the Stars.

This will be the last of the concerts during the current season. They will resume in the autumn.

A LAST REMINDER that the Docent Council's FISH FAIR is scheduled for Tuesday, evening, May 16, 6-9 p.m. The occasion will benefit the Academy's In-School Educational Program and your help, by attending, will be appreciated. The whole family will enjoy it — that we guarantee!

## NEWS and NOTES . . . . .

ON HIS OWN TIME and with his own money, Karl Switak, Aquatic Biologist (Herpetologist) for Steinhart Aquarium, recently completed an around-the-world, two-and-one-half month trip, and the Academy is considerably richer for his journey. Departing San Francisco, January 15, he went to Japan, Hong Kong, New Guinea, Australia, South Africa and Europe. The main objective however was New Guinea and its noteworthy green python which is confined to that area and which goes through a striking color transformation from newly-hatched (when it is bright yellow) to its adult stage when it is an equally bright green. They are not particularly easy to find in that they are extremely arboreal and as green as the surrounding jungle foliage.

Karl was totally successful. From New Guinea he air-shipped twelve of the rare serpents, one of which was in the newly-hatched yellow stage. They are non-poisonous and adults reach a length of six feet. Ours are on display in Steinhart's "swamp area" in Case #135 and more than worth a special visit. Their presence makes them the largest collection of green New Guinea pythons anywhere on display in the world.

Also shipped back to the Academy was a rare, green tree monitor (also New Guinea) as well as an assorted collection of snakes, lizards and frogs. Karl hand-carried his European items when he came home. He went through Customs at a remarkable speed!

### RECENT SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS OF THE CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

#### PROCEEDINGS

- "Description of a New Species of Chlamys (Mollusca: Pelecypoda) from the Galapagos Islands." Leo G. Hertlein. Vol. XXXIX, No. 1. January 21, 1972 ..... 25c
- "Three New Land Snails from Isla Santa Cruz (Indefatigable Island), Galapagos." Allyn G. Smith. Vol. XXXIX, No. 2. January 21, 1972. .... 75c

#### OCCASIONAL PAPERS

- "Catalog of Specimens in the Type Collection of the Department of Geology, California Academy of Sciences. Echinodermata." Victor A. Zullo and Leo G. Hertlein. No. 91. January 21, 1972 ..... \$1.00



AND HERE IS AN Academy news note from southeast Asia: On Monday, April 17, a Foucault pendulum (in size a replica of the CAS' own), designed and constructed in our instrument shop, was shipped to Thailand for installation at Khonken University, Bangkok. This followed on the heels of one made under contract for the Museum of Science and Technology, Lahore, Pakistan. Our pendulums become more and more international.

## Meet The Staff . . .



Photo by Lloyd Ullberg

TOM TUCKER, Aquatic Biologist in Steinhart Aquarium, is occupied particularly in the pathology and water quality laboratory, a highly-important function necessary in maintaining the thousands of aquatic animals which make Steinhart what it is.

A native of Stockton, California, where he received his basic education, Tom went on to major in biology at San Francisco State College and minor in chemistry, subsequently receiving both his B.A. and his M.A. degrees from that institution. He first was employed at the Academy in the Department of Ichthyology in September 1968 when the Vanderbilt Collection of fishes was being incorporated into that department under terms of a National Science Foundation grant. During this period he was also writing his Master's thesis on the "Feeding Habits of the Lahontan Speckled Dace" (indigenous to the Lake Tahoe area). Then, in November 1969 (as happens to too many) he was drafted into the Marine Corps. After brief service in Yuma, Arizona, he was assigned a post in Okinawa with the awesome appellation of 'nuclear chemical and biological warfare specialist.' During this time, he was constantly in touch with Dr. Earl S. Herald, Associate Director for Steinhart, who encouraged him to scuba dive in and study the Okinawan reef. He has many photographs to prove his diligence.

Tom was discharged in August 1971 and was back and fully-employed at Steinhart in September, same year. He continues to scuba dive at Moss

Beach and is getting more and more involved with the Steinhart Divers.

He and his wife Prudence live in Burlingame, sharing a life with a dog named Daisy, and — as you might suspect — some tropical fish. For a year they had a pet pheasant which was incubated from an egg and its behavioral activities were a continuing source of wonderment. But the best news emanating from the Tucker household is that they will be greeting their first child in September and congratulations are in order all around.

## NEW MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMY

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### Contributing Members

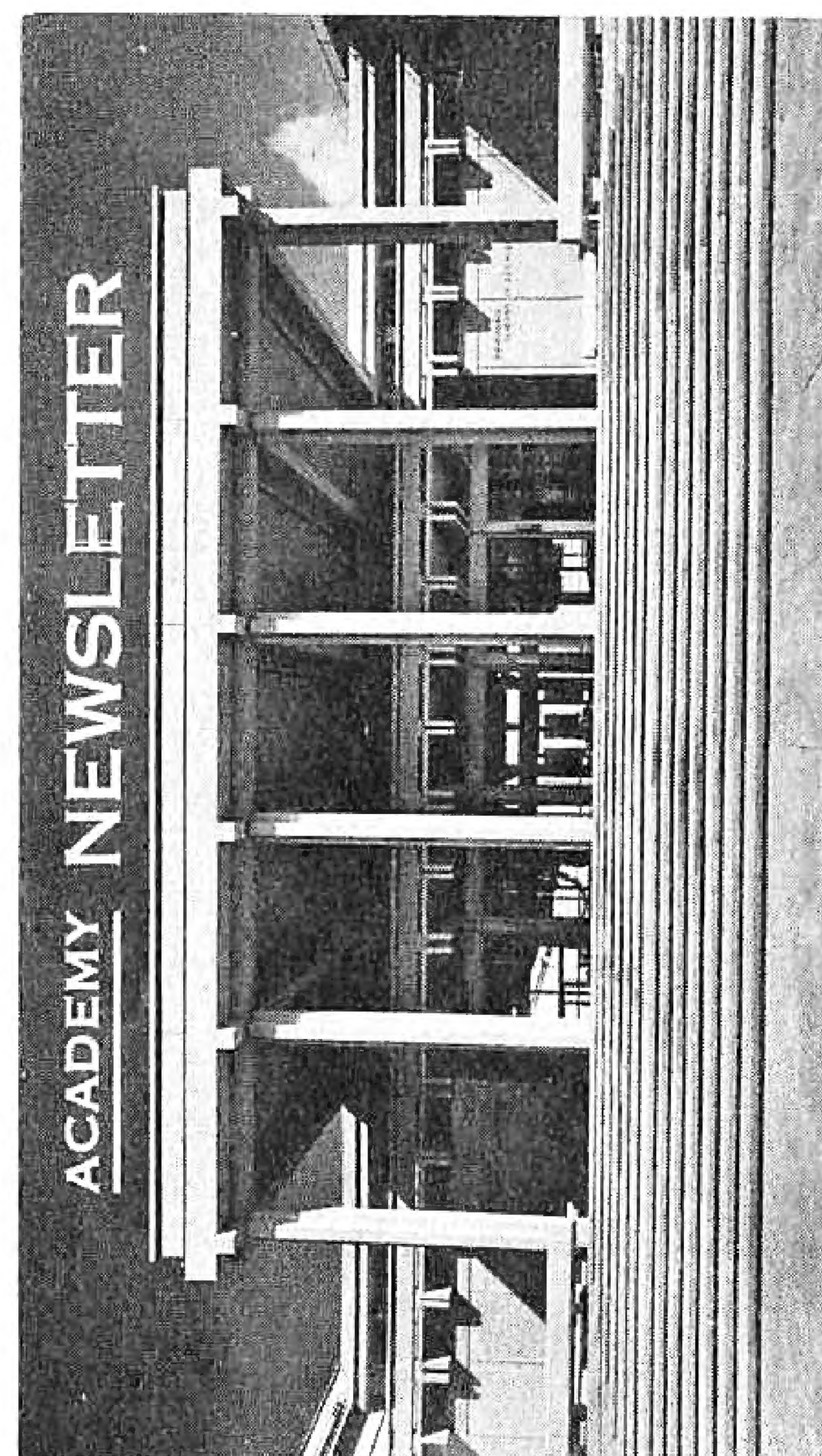
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